

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7618
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY RANGOON PRIORITY

S E C R E T BANGKOK 34658

EXDIS

STATE FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HUMMEL

TAIPEI AND RANGOON EYES ONLY FOR AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: PINT, TH, BM, TW
SUBJ: ROC IBMND ACTIVITIES IN THAILAND/BURMA

REF: A) STATE 307360, B) STATE 310837, C) BANGKOK 34565

1. AS REPORTED REF C I MET WITH GENERAL KRIANGSAK CHAMANAN AT SUPREME COMMAND HEADQUARTERS AT 1430 HOURS LOCAL TODAY, DECEMBER 28. I OPENED OUR CONVERSATION BY TELLING THE GENERAL THAT I HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO RAISE AT AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL WITH THE RTG A MATTER TO WHICH WE ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE: SPECIFICALLY, INCREASED ROC SUPPORT TO DISSIDENT GROUPS IN THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE AREA. I SAID THAT BECAUSE IT HAD MILITARY ASPECTS I FELT IT APPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS IT WITH HIM IN THE FIRST INSTANCE BUT WAS PREPARED TO TAKE IT UP WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER OR THE PRIME MINISTER IF HE FELT THAT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE.

2. I THEN PROCEEDED TO MAKE THE FOUR POINTS CONTAINED IN PARA 4
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REF A AS MODIFIED BY REF B AND ASKED FOR HIS COMMENTS.

3. IN RESPONSE GENERAL KRIANGSAK PROVIDED A SHORT COURSE IN THE HISTORY OF THE THAI-BURMESE BORDER AREA AS WELL AS AN EXPOSITION ON THE VARIOUS KMT EFFORTS IN THAT REGION GOING BACK TO THE LATE 40'S. HE SAID THAT EVEN BEFORE THE CLOSURE

OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA EMBASSY IN BANGKOK CHINESE PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE EFFORTS USING BURMESE DISSIDENTS AND KMT REMNANTS HAD ALREADY BEEN STOPPED AT RTG REQUEST. HE WAS AWARE OF A CONTINUING ROC INTELLIGENCE EFFORT; HOWEVER, HE IS PERSONALLY CONVINCED THAT ROC SUPPORT FOR THE DISSIDENTS IN THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE AREA HAS BEEN STEADILY DECLINING. HE WENT ON TO STATE FURTHER THAT APPROXIMATELY ONE YEAR AGO THERE WERE REPORTS SOURCED TO THE SUA AND OTHER GROUPS THAT THE ROC WAS PREPARING TO REVERSE ITSELF AND INCREASE MATERIEL AND TRAINING SUPPORT FOR THEM. THIS DID NOT HAPPEN. RECENTLY HE HAS RECEIVED SIMILAR REPORTS TRACEABLE TO THE SAME SOURCES THAT THE ROC WAS AGAIN GIVING CONSIDERATION TO INCREASING ITS SUPPOR FOR THESE ELEMENTS. THE RTG HAS NOT RPT NOT BEEN NOTIFIED BY THE ROC OF ANY INTENTION TO INCREASE MATERIEL OR TRAINING SUPPORT TO THESE GROUPS. KRIANGSAK SAID FLATLY THAT DURING HIS NOVEMBER VISIT TO TAIPEI THE ROC OFFICIALS WITH WHOM HE MET HAD NOT PROPOSED SUCH A PLAN NOR SOLICITED RTG APPROVAL FOR SUCH AN EFFORT. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE ROC TO UNDERTAKE SUCH A PROGRAM WITHOUT THE RTG'S KNOWLEDGE AND WERE THE RTG PRESENTED WITH A FORMAL REQUEST FROM TAIPEI THE REQUEST WOULD HAVE TO BE VETTED WITHIN THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL BEFORE IT COULD BE APPROVED. IT COULD NOT BE CONSIDERED AT A LOWER LEVEL.

4. KRIANGSAK THEN WENT ON TO TALK ABOUT THE PROBLEM OF NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING OUT OF THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE AND STATED THAT AS LONG AS RANGOON FAILED TO SOLVE THE POLITICAL PROBLEM OF THE MINORITIES THE TRAFFIC COULD ONLY BE INHIBITED BUT NEVER STOPPED. HE SAID THAT HE HOPED WITHIN THE NEXT MONTH TO BE ABLE TO MAKE A TRIP TO RANGOON TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM
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WITH HIS OLD ACQUAINTANCES WITHIN THE GUB.

5. UPON RETURNING TO THE OFFICE I RECEIVED A CALL FROM KRIANGSAK WHO SAID, IN GUARDED TONES, THAT HE HAD QUERIED "THE LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE" AND HAD RECEIVED ASSURANCES THAT TAIPEI HAD NO INTENTION OF GIVING MATERIAL SUPPORT OR TRAINING TO DISSIDENT GROUPS INVOLVED IN THE ILLICIT NARCOTICS TRADE. THE VALUE OF SUCH GROUPS TO TAIPEI HAD NEVER EQUALED THE EXPENDITURES INVOLVED AND THAT THIS WAS MORE TRUE TODAY THAN EVER. I ASSUME THAT HIS SOURCE WAS COLONEL CHU HUA WHO IS ATTACHED TO THE CHINA AIRLINES OFFICE IN BANGKOK AND SERVES UNOFFICILLY AS THE ROC DEFENSE ATTACHE TO THAILAND.

6. COMMENT. THERE IS NO DOUBT BUT THAT GENERAL KRIANGSAK GOT MY MESSAGE. THE FACT THAT HE CALLED ME LATER WITH THE ADDITIONAL BIT OF VOLUNTEERED INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM THE LOCAL ROC OFFICE CONFIRMS THAT QUITE CLEARLY. ALSO, AS I WAS TAKING MY LEAVE, HE ASKED ME WITH SOME CONCERN WHAT FURTHER

ACTION MIGHT BE TAKEN. IN RESPONSE TO THAT QUESTION I TOLD HIM THAT I WOULD REPORT HIS REMARKS FULLY TO WASHINGTON AND AWAIT ANY FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS THE DEPARTMENT MIGHT HAVE. DEPENDING ON WHAT AMBASSADOR UNGER LEARNS FROM HIS INTERVIEW WITH PREMIER CHIANG IT MIGHT BE WORTH RECHECKING OUR INTELLIGENCE SOURCES ON THIS ONE. IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT FOLLOWING HIS TRIP TO TAIPEI, CHIANG CHI FU'S DEPUTY RETURNED TO THAILAND PAINTING A ROSY PICTURE OF WHAT THE FAITHFUL MIGHT EXPECT IN THE WAY OF SUPPORT FROM THE ROC AND THAT THE EXAGGERATED HUES IN THE CANVAS WERE CHOSEN TO COUNTERACT SAGGING MORALE AND ACTUALLY REPRESENTED LITTLE MORE THAN HOLLOW ROC PROMISES. BURKE

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